Mobile Irrigation Labs

4th Quarter - FY 2006 Issue (Vol. 5)

NEWSLETTER

Typical Results for Urban Mobile Irrigation Labs

There are now 11 urban Mobile Irrigation Labs in south Florida. Each lab performs 140 evaluations (irrigation audits) per year including follow-up evaluations on 10 percent of audits done previously.

The labs currently serve Broward, Collier, Lee, Martin, Miami-Dade, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach and St. Lucie counties.

For Fiscal Years 2004 and 2005, the urban labs estimated potential water savings of 613 million gallons per year (MGY), and actual water savings of 208 MGY.

When irrigation evaluations are performed, the site is checked for 35 problems occurring in irrigation systems. Based on analysis of data from 1,590 urban evaluations conducted in south Florida in 2004 and 2005, the five most common problems discovered are as follows:

Problem	Frequency
Mixed sprinkler/emitter sizes & unmatched precipitation in the same zone	69%
Turf and landscape area irrigated in the same zone	64%
Stream of water blocked by vegetation	57%
Operating time too frequent	54%
Operating time too long	44%

For Mobile Irrigation Lab contact information, refer to the following web site:

http://www.sfwmd.gov/org/wsd/wsconservation/mobi lirrigation-links.html

Unmatched Irrigation Heads

Unmatched irrigation heads have different precipitation rates generating non-uniform irrigation patterns. This leads to over watering some



areas of an irrigation zone and under watering of others.

Turf and Landscape in Same Zone

Turf and landscaping need different irrigation rates and schedules. Watering both types of vegetation at the same time leads to either over watering



and waste, or under watering and plant stress.

Sprinkler Head Blocked by Vegetation

When a sprinkler head is blocked, the water distribution pattern of the sprinkler is disrupted. The area close to the head is over watered, and



the area beyond the blockage is not watered.

Controller Settings

When the landscape is over watered, either longer than needed, or more frequently than needed, the extra water is lost as runoff, or leaches below the root zone, essentially wasting water. Over watering also leads to fertilizer loss, which has both economic and environmental consequences.



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